

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2015  
SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Jim Dougherty	Town Supervisor, Shelter Island
Nanette Lawrenson	Executive Director, Shelter Island Historical Society
Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide to Dep. Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Town Supervisor Jim Dougherty welcomed all to Shelter Island and thanked Parks Trustees for the great job they do.

Executive Director Nanette Lawrenson welcomed all to Havens barn. She remarked that the present barn was built in 1988 to replicate the original barn that disintegrated over time. Havens house on the grounds was built in 1743 and has been historically used as a home, tavern, school, hospital, and currently home to Shelter Island Historical Society since 1960. The Historical Society is presently in the tail end of a successful capital campaign to build a new archival hall and study center that will be very useful to the residents of Shelter Island. Nanette added that Parks Trustee Kathy Gooding is also a trustee of the Shelter Island Historical Society and Chairs the Education Committee. Education is the core of the Historical Society's mission to collect, maintain and preserve, and Kathy has been instrumental in sharing and developing educational opportunities and various exhibits.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2015**

**A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.**

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson thanked Supervisor Dougherty for attending the Parks Trustee meeting, and Nanette Lawrenson and Parks Trustee Kathleen Gooding for their hospitality and organizing the meeting.

Commissioner Dawson reported on the fish kill that occurred several weeks ago at Indian Island Golf Course and beach front at the County Park. The full moon and high tides helped to alleviate the situation. There was another fish kill this past weekend which was not near as severe as the first one and did not affect the parks.

The legislation that passed over the last several weeks was primarily for special events.

The Parks budget is presently being processed with the Budget Review Office and has not been finalized yet. The Commissioner hopes to have an update on it at the next meeting.

Nick Gibbons presented an update on the piping plover season thus far. He reported that four pair nested at Cedar Beach, one pair at Cedar Point West, six pair at Cupsogue CP, three pair at McAllister CP in Pt. Jefferson, four pair on the Old Field side of McAllister, one pair at Peconic Dunes, five pair at Shinnecock West CP and nine pair at Smith Point CP. Two exclosures were targeted by a fox and eight nests were lost in a 48 hour period. Nick stated that the foxes have become tame due to the fact that people feed them at the camp grounds and parking lots. It has become a public health hazard due to the fact that the foxes freely walk right up to people expecting food. The Parks Department is doing its best to work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding monitoring the plovers and handling predator management. There is a coordinated effort between the County Park Department and the Park Service regarding removal of the foxes. Once the nests are lost, the sixty day clock is reset once again for new nesting and successful hatching and raising of chicks to fledging. The next hatching is expected July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Parks Department is accommodating as many day trippers as possible and the transition and presence of Park Rangers this season has been very good.

Commissioner Dawson added that it is a huge job managing this program and Nick and his staff are doing a great job. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service feels that the Parks Department isn't doing enough to protect the plovers and the public feels that it does too much, creating a difficult situation. He pointed out also that when Smith Pt. has to be closed due to weather, erosion or habitat preservation there are still other locations open to the public for outer beach access.

Richard Martin reported that he and Nick Gibbons visited the Mashomack Preserve prior to the trustee meeting to make observations and comparisons between the building at Mashomack and the Smithers property. It was very helpful for the purpose of future restoration of space and exhibits at Smithers.

Commissioner Dawson reported that Board Member Terrence Pearsall is doing very well since his recent surgery.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hopkins requested an update on the Park Rangers program. Commissioner Dawson reported that there are currently fifty-six Rangers on staff and many Rangers are also offering extra days coverage. The Commissioner asked if the Trustees know of any college-aged students or other responsible adults, especially those living out on the East End who would be interested in part-time Security Aide positions, they can contact

the Parks Department in West Sayville. The Ranger program is going very well and there is good presence at the parks, beaches and campgrounds.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Gooding inquired about the status of the Cedar Point Lighthouse restoration. Commissioner Dawson reported that the Parks Department has an agreement in place with the Long Island Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Historical Society. The lantern was removed a year ago and temporarily placed in front of the Sag Harbor Museum. The entire framework of the lighthouse roof needs to be rebuilt. The Legislature wants to see plans before approving the appropriation of capital funding for the project to begin. In the interim, the roof is exposed and scaffolding remains in place inside the lighthouse, leaving it subject to the elements. Christina DeLisi added that Legislator Schneiderman has been working to raise funding for this non-profit project as well. Trustee White added that another issue with this project is that its location creates difficult access to the lighthouse.

Trustee Cardillo reported that the crew is doing a nice job with the grass at Indian Island CP and Sears Bellows CP, especially because of the tick situation. Regarding the fish kill, the tide has been washing many of them back out which is good. The restroom repairs at Indian Island have been completed, however the fans are solar operated and not working. Commissioner Dawson will look into it.

Trustee Cardillo reported that there was an advisory committee meeting for the North Fork County Park and a presentation given by the NYSDEC. Discussion ensued about what constitutes wetlands and also the existing drainage issue that goes to the north and across South Shore Road. There are some homes on that side and several ideas were presented on how to possibly rectify the problem. One of the ideas was to create a sump, however there are also some sensitive endangered species in the area. Nick was present at the advisory committee meeting and stated that the acquisition of this 300 acre property was \$18 million. 125 acres is set aside for passive recreation on the northern portion and 175 acres for active recreation on the southern portion of the parcel. During the DEC presentation, wetlands, woodlands and grasslands were identified. Trustee Cardillo added that Suffolk County Parks campgrounds are filled to capacity so North Fork CP will offer the public another location with tent camping sites separated from RV camping sites, as well as it being a good source of revenue for the County. Commissioner Dawson pointed out that this was a good acquisition to offer camping and equestrian amenities to the north fork of Long Island.

Trustee Miles Borden thanked Supervisor Dougherty for attending the Parks Trustee meeting.

Supervisor Dougherty remarked that the meeting was very informative and especially thanked Nick Gibbons for his input.

Legislative Aide Christina DeLisi reported that this coming weekend would be "Discover Suffolk County Parks Day". John Pavacic and a member of the DEC gave a powerpoint presentation on the southern pine beetle infestation at last week's Parks Committee meeting. Legislator Calarco's bill passed to create a joint commission on the southern pine beetle problem.

Trustee Bill Sickles requested a follow-up on the member of the public, Kristin White who spoke at the last trustee meeting regarding an issue that occurred at Shinnecock East County Park on the day of a scheduled memorial service there. Commissioner Dawson stated that he reached out to both the staff and Mrs. White because he would like to speak with the military personnel who were involved. Mrs. White had stated that they are both stationed in Farmingdale and Commissioner Dawson called the Director of Veterans Services Tom Ronayne to see if he could locate them.

The other member of the public who spoke at the meeting, Mrs. Emmel will be meeting with Commissioner Dawson, Frank Krotschinsky (Director of Handicapped Services) and Ryan McGarry (County Executive's Office) to discuss her issue on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee White thanked Trustee Gooding for her hospitality. He commented once again that when he visited Shinnecock East County Park without identification of his being a Parks Trustee, he didn't encounter any issues. Commissioner Dawson stated that he is looking into having laminated identification cards printed for the Parks Trustees so that they are able to make site inspections when the occasional need arises.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Sears Bellows County Park in Hampton Bays on Thursday, July 16, 2015.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and was seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.**